

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/780,986

Examiner

Prabodh M. Dharja

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01-25-2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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1. **Status:** please all the replies and correspondence should be addressed to examiner's new art unit 2629. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted 01-25-2007 under amendments, new claims and request for reconsideration have been placed of record in the file. Claims 1-11 are pending in this office action.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant has amended claims 1,2 and added new claims 4-11. Applicant also has amended specification. The amendment and new claims filed on 01-25-2007 does not introduce any new matter into the disclosure. The added material is supported by the original disclosure. Applicant has added new claims 4-11, amended claims 1 and 2, and amended specification to correct grammar and switch the position of the limitations in claims and information in specification.

3. Applicant's arguments, see Remark, filed 01-25-2007, with respect to Claims 1-3 and new claims 4-11, regarding "when the operation direction of the operation section is changed during the operation of the operation section, a direction and amount of application of an external force is repeatedly computed to be applied to the operation section when a predetermined operation amount is reached, wherein the computed external force comprises in which a resultant having a first component applied in a direction opposite to the operation direction of the operation section prior to changing the operation direction and a second component applied in a direction opposite to the operation direction of the operation section after changing the operation direction the first component being gradually reduced and the second component being gradually

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increased with an increase in the operation amount of the operation section after changing the operation direction” further consideration and search under US-PGPUB and prior art. After further extensive search and consideration the amended claims 1, 2 and new claims 4-11 do overcome prior art rejection; which puts the application number 10780986 in condition for allowance.

4. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant’s argument filed on 01-25-2007 are convincing. As argued by applicant in remarks under claim rejection page 21, paragraphs 2-5, and page 22, paragraphs 1,4,5, the prior art of Numata et al. (US 6,987,508 B2) fails to recite or disclose the uniquely distinct features of the independent claims limitations below with other limitations recited above:

a direction and amount of application of an external force is repeatedly computed to be applied to the operation section when a predetermined operation amount is reached, wherein the computed external force comprises in which a resultant having a first component applied in a direction opposite to the operation direction of the operation section prior to changing the operation direction and a second component applied in a direction opposite to the operation direction of the operation section after changing the operation direction the first component being gradually reduced and the second component being gradually increased with an increase in the operation amount of the operation section after changing the operation direction.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prabodh M Dharia whose telephone number is 571-272-7668. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM to 5PM.

7. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

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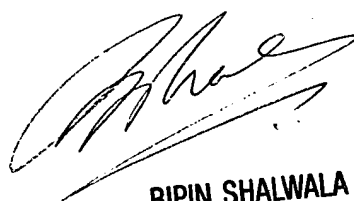
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03-14-2007



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